

Faculty Senate President's Message

July 31, 2011

USU Colleagues:

As I reach the end of my first month as president of the Faculty Senate, I would like to reiterate my commitment to serving all members of the USU faculty in trying to find ways to make this a place where people enjoy coming to work!

These are supposed to be the quiet months before the start of the new academic year for medical students and most graduate students, and here we are in the midst of traffic flow disruptions due to massive base construction projects, a looming parking shortage with BRAC integration, and the threat of USU closure once again an issue along with serious fiscal constraints. Please be assured that USU officials are taking appropriate steps to try to address these matters, and you will be kept informed as much as possible.

Many of you are no doubt anticipating the August implementation of the School of Medicine's new curriculum with some level of anxiety. Senate officers will continue to communicate frequently with the Office of Curriculum Reform and the Associate Dean for Faculty to monitor progress. With all the changes affecting USU faculty due to curriculum reform, the Faculty Senate can serve as the voice of the faculty and offer a mechanism for individuals to freely express their concerns and perspectives on issues. It should also play a role in finding potential solutions to identified problems. Our primary mission is to provide a high quality education to the students who choose to come to this unique medical school, and I applaud all the hard work being done by USU faculty to do just that.

Finally, senate committees are being reorganized under new leadership for this academic year, and I encourage faculty at large to contact chairs of committees to volunteer your time and expertise--the senate is only as effective as the people that are willing to serve. There are several important senate-sponsored annual events that bring our community together. Please watch for announcements and support these events by your attendance, or even better, consider helping with planning and execution of these events.

Upcoming events in 2011:

- Fall Assembly: 6 October at 3:00 p.m.
- New Faculty Orientation Day, 13 October, all-day event
- Staff Appreciation Day, 9 November 2011, 3:00 p.m.

For those of you who are here on campus, please stop me in the hallway, come to my office in A1040G, or drop by my table when you see me (my picture is on the senate website) in the cafeteria at breakfast or lunch. I enjoy meeting fellow faculty members, and I'm ALWAYS willing to listen to your thoughts and ideas.